

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
CONNECTICUT**

PRESCRIBED BURNING

(Ac.)

CODE 338

DEFINITION

Applying controlled fire to a predetermined area.

PURPOSES

- To control undesirable vegetation.
- To prepare sites for harvesting, planting or seeding.
- To control plant disease.
- To reduce wildfire hazards.
- To improve wildlife habitat.
- To improve plant production quantity and/or quality.
- To remove slash and debris.
- To enhance seed and seedling production.
- To facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.
- To restore and maintain ecological sites.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On forestland, native pasture, pastureland, wildlife land, hayland, and other lands as appropriate.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable To All Purposes

Laws and Regulations. All Federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations governing the use of this practice as well as setbacks from wells, surface water and property boundaries

shall be followed. Planned work shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and permit conditions and requirements. **The landowner shall obtain all necessary permits prior to any activities.**

The procedure, equipment, and the number of trained personnel shall be adequate to accomplish the intended purposes as stated in the burn plan.

Adjoining landowners within the airshed, local fire departments, and public safety officials shall be notified prior to burning. Coordinate with the local fire chief/warden and/or fire department prior to all prescribed burns.

The expected weather conditions, human and vehicular traffic that may be impeded by heat or smoke, liability (e.g., utility lines) and safety and health precautions shall be integrated into the timing, location and expected intensity of the burn.

Timing of burning will be commensurate with soil and site conditions to maintain site productivity and minimize effects on soil erosion and soil properties (structure, soil moisture).

NRCS will not act as burn boss, drop the match, or carry a torch.

NRCS employees may provide technical assistance within their job approval authority and/or certification level. This may include:

- Assisting in the development of the burn plan
- Providing resource information such as soils, vegetation, production history, maps, photos, and/or climate data.

CONSIDERATIONS

Burning should be managed with consideration for wildlife needs such as nesting, feeding, and cover.

Existing barriers such as lakes, streams, wetlands, roads, and constructed firebreaks are important to the design and layout of this practice.

Consider cultural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals when planning this practice.

Weather parameters and other data that affect fire behavior should be monitored during the burn. Carbon release should be minimized by the timing and burn intensity.

Consider the location of utilities such as electric power lines and natural gas pipelines to prevent damage to the utility and avoid personal injury.

Smoke impacts should be considered before the burn and monitored during the burn.

Liability and safety precautions shall be planned prior to the burn and monitored during the burn.

A 24-hour weather forecast shall be obtained prior to the prescribed burn.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

A written burn plan will be prepared by certified individuals. Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. All necessary permits must be obtained before implementation of the practice.

As a minimum, a burning plan will include:

- Description of the burn area including present vegetation cover.
- Objective and timing of burn.
- Acceptable conditions for prescribed burn.
- Preparation of the area for burning.
- Equipment/personnel needs/safety requirements.
- Special precaution areas.
- Firing technique.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The kinds and expected variability of site factors (e.g., fuel condition and moisture content, weather conditions, human and vehicular traffic that may be impeded by heat or smoke, liability, and safety and health precautions) shall be monitored during the operation of this practice. Sufficient fire suppression equipment and personnel shall be available commensurate with the expected behavior of these factors during the time of burning to prevent a wildfire or other safety, health or liability incident.

Maintenance shall include monitoring of the burned site and adjacent areas until such time as ash, debris and other consumed material is at pre-burn temperatures.